



ISF Program Summary

ISF helps students that have aged out of foster care pursue their dreams of a higher education. Our aim is to mentor leaders of influence that will in turn help create a better tomorrow.

Foster Care Facts:

- ❖ 20,000 youth age-out of the foster care system each year
- ❖ Only 10% of these youth ever enroll in college
- ❖ Less than 3% graduate
- ❖ Many become homeless, drug addicted, incarcerated

ISF helps by *Bridging the Gap* for orphaned or aged-out foster care youth:

- ❖ Scholarships that ease the financial burden of attending college
- ❖ Personal Mentors who guide, coach, counsel throughout the students journey
- ❖ Leadership training to develop our students into leaders of influence who will pay it forward

ISF assists students that:

- ❖ were orphaned or graduated High School in public or private foster care
- ❖ are full time students pursuing secondary education
- ❖ are able to maintain a 2.5 GPA
- ❖ demonstrate leadership potential

ISF program overview:

1. **Scholarships:** ISF helps our selected students financially. We generally “fill the gap”, so our students are expected to pursue all financial opportunities for tuition waivers and other grants. We then work with them to determine their financial need. In many cases our students do not need financial support for tuition so we are helping them pay their other necessary expenses such as rent or utilities, books, technology needs, etc.
2. **Mentoring Program:** Each ISF Student is paired with a vetted ISF mentor to help the student work through life’s challenges, to “*be there*” for the student and provide Christian discipleship. The goal is for the mentor and the student to meet a minimum of one hour twice per month.
3. **Leadership Development:** Once the student and the mentor have met for a semester we aim to guide the pair toward our leadership curriculum. The pair will make a selection from a list of approved leadership books and they will read a section at a time and work through these leadership principles together.

ISF Admission Criteria:

ISF has a detailed application that must be completed and turned in by stated deadline in order to be considered for the program the following school year. In addition to filling out the questionnaire and writing a short essay, they are asked to provide some additional documents to help us consider each application. Students that are approved to begin the program the following year will then be notified and the amounts of the award determined at that time.

ISF Life Skills and Mission Trip:

This summer we are piloting a program with the aim of bringing students and mentors together to meet in person in Dallas, Texas and work through a specially designed leadership and life skills program. Some students will also be attending a five-day mission trip to Guatemala with Orphan Outreach following the Dallas experience.

It is our goal eventually to add this element to the program for each of the students we select into our program. The trip’s expenses will be completely paid for and will not affect scholarship award amount